

## FIRST LAND CONFLICT

Engagement Reported to Have Occurred in Korea.

## NO GENERAL CONTEST

COSSACK PICKETS ATTACK SMALL JAP DETACHMENT.

Japanese Fleet Observed Off Port Arthur — Chinese Pirates Doing Much Damage to Coast Trade.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 20.—A dispatch from Port Arthur today says the first land encounter occurred yesterday. A picket of Cossacks attacked a small detachment of Japanese troops on Korean territory. The Cossacks captured some Japanese prisoners, on whom they found maps and papers.

The collision was presumably between reconnoitering parties. A general engagement is not anticipated immediately.

A special Port Arthur dispatch says the Japanese fleet was observed February 18 cruising off that port.

Reports from northern Korea say the Koreans are showing a decidedly friendly attitude to the Russians.

The Manchurian railroad is conveying troops without difficulty to the various points of concentration.

Native reports say that the Chinese pirates, since the outbreak of hostilities, have been displaying such activity in eastern Asiatic waters as almost to paralyze the coasting trade.

## LAKE BAIKAL DISASTER.

Train Dashed Into Snowdrift—One Soldier Killed, Nineteen Injured.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 20.—With reference to the sensational stories of a disaster to Russian troops at Lake Baikal (one report saying that three regiments were drowned while attempting to cross the ice-covered lake), it is explained that the trans-Baikal line was blocked at the Baikal station during the night of February 18 by an avalanche of snow which fell from a neighboring mountain. A train having troops on board dashed into the obstruction, the locomotive was derailed, and in the succeeding five cars one soldier was killed, five were severely injured and fourteen were slightly hurt. Traffic was expected to be resumed the following day.

Further advices from Port Arthur today say that all the women and children and most of the male civilians have left that place, and that practically only the garrison remains.

The wave of patriotism sweeping over the empire seems to be swamping racial feeling, even the wild tribes of the Caucasus, the discontented Finns and sullen Poles forgetting their grievances and coming forward to volunteer their services to the common fatherland.

## Devotion of Jewish Doctors.

An instance of devotion among the czar's Hebrew subjects is afforded by the act of forty-five Jewish doctors in throwing up their practices to go to the front. Before leaving they attended a service held in a synagogue here. Rabbi Drabkin made a fervid address to a large congregation, which included Baron Ginzberg and other Jewish notables. He said:

"Our fatherland is passing through a difficult epoch. The moment has come when you, my brothers, must show the whole world that you are not unworthy sons of your country, and that although standing apart before the altar of religion you are united with other citizens before the altar of patriotism and are ready with all the czar's faithful lieges to sacrifice yourselves for the fatherland. Remember that Russia is strong, not only in arms, but in God's blessing."

After the service the congregation sang the national hymn and cheered.

## Czarina Takes Active Interest.

The czarina, who continues to take great personal interest in providing for the sick and wounded of the war, presided today at a special meeting of the Ladies' Patriotic Society, which was attended by several grand duchesses and others of the highest rank in the land, and presided at a service held at the winter palace, at which the girls of the imperial schools acted as chorists.

During a discussion in regard to utilizing the services unparingly offered by the

girlhood and womanhood of Russia for the relief of the wounded, the czarina proposed temporarily to suspend the studies in the girls' schools in order that the girls might be able to devote the school hours to sewing. The suggestion was applauded, but no definite action was taken.

Her majesty, who is an expert needlewoman, has done much to encourage sewing among Russian society women.

## Recognizes Public Subscriptions.

Now that the government has officially recognized the public subscriptions to provide war vessels to replace those destroyed by the enemy, the newspapers are discussing the best type of vessel, opinion veering from submarine boats to torpedo boat destroyers. A service organ points out the cruisers would take too long to build, and adds that it prefers powerful torpedo boats, and suggests that they be built where the Japanese got theirs.

Financial circles approve the action of the imperial bank in selling London, Paris and Berlin bills cheaper than before the war, believing this measure will thwart the speculators in those centers, where they are trying to force down the price of the rouble.

## TREATMENT OF SUSPECTS.

May Enter Army as Privates—Speedy Construction of Warships.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 20.—According to the terms of an imperial order, just issued, political suspects under police surveillance are permitted to enter the army in the field as privates, after which the minister of the interior and the minister of justice can order the withdrawal of police supervision over such persons.

Another decree appoints a special commission, under the presidency of Hereditary Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, brother of the czar, to arrange for the most speedy construction of submarine boats, cruisers and other vessels, to meet the expense of which a public subscription has been started by the press.

## Would Rectify Jap Statements.

A Russian account of the events immediately preceding the rupture with Japan is published in the Official Messenger to-day, with the "object of rectifying certain statements from Japanese sources." In this account it is stated that on receipt of the last Japanese proposals, January 16, the government immediately proceeded to examine the Japanese demands.

On January 25 M. Kurino, the Japanese minister, was informed, in reply to his inquiry, that the czar had entrusted the proposals to a special conference, the members of which would meet January 25, and that his majesty's decision would probably not be given before February 12.

On the last-named date Emperor Nicholas ordered the preparation of a draft of definitive instructions to Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister to Japan, based on the declarations of this conference.

## Sent Identical Telegrams.

On February 8 identical telegrams were sent to Viceroy Alexieff and Baron de Rosen containing the text of the draft of a proposed Russo-Japanese agreement, with a full statement of the reasons which prompted Russia to modify the Japanese proposals and general instructions to Baron de Rosen concerning the presentation of the reply to the Japanese government. Forty-eight hours before the receipt of the news of the rupture Foreign Minister Lamsdorf notified M. Kurino of the dispatch of the Russian reply.

On February 5 Viceroy Alexieff notified the foreign office of Baron de Rosen's receipt of the reply.

On February 6, at 4 p. m., M. Kurino quite unexpectedly handed to Count Lamsdorf two notes, notifying him of the rupture of the negotiations and of diplomatic relations and adding that he, M. Kurino, and his staff would leave St. Petersburg February 10.

## Hoped for Shortest Possible Time.

These notes were accompanied by a private letter from M. Kurino to Count Lamsdorf, expressing the hope that the rupture of relations would be confined to the shortest possible time.

On the same day Viceroy Alexieff, Baron de Rosen and all the Russian representatives at Peking, Tokyo and the capitals of the great powers were informed by urgent telegrams of the rupture of relations and of the issue of an imperial order withdrawing the Russian legation from Tokyo, and laying on Japan the responsibility for all consequences ensuing. The communication concludes:

"Although the breaking off of diplomatic relations by no means implied the opening of hostilities, the Japanese government, as early as the night of February 8, and during February 9 and February 10, committed a whole series of revolting attacks on Russian warships and merchantmen, attended by violations of international law. The decree of the Emperor of Japan declaring war was not issued until February 11."

## German Agreement to Hay Note.

BERLIN, February 20.—The foreign office several days ago instructed the German legation in London to inform the British government that Germany was prepared to accept the Hay note.

(Continued on Eighth Page.)



## WERE BLOWN TO PIECES

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION OF THREE POWDER MILLS TODAY.

Three Men Killed and Thirty-Five Injured—Force Felt in Other Cities—Cause Unknown.

PATERSON, N. J., February 20.—An explosion at the Lafin & Rand powder mills, at Wayne, seven miles from here, today caused the death of three men. Three mills were wrecked.

Al Jackson and James Weir were killed instantly, their bodies being blown to pieces. Frederick Weimer died an hour later. Thirty-five other employees were injured, several seriously. The cause of the explosion is unknown. Its force was felt here, in Newark and in other nearby cities. The town of Little Falls, five miles from the mill, was badly shaken, and many windows were broken and several large brick chimneys collapsed. Doctors and nurses were sent from here to the scene of the disaster.

## Capt. Phillips Must Answer Charges.

Capt. J. W. L. Phillips, 27th Infantry, has been ordered to report at Chicago to answer charges of duplication of pay accounts.

## PERRY HEATH RESIGNS.

Retires From Secretaryship of Republican National Committee.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, February 20.—Perry S. Heath, former first assistant postmaster general, and secretary of the republican national committee, wired his resignation of the latter position, from here today, to Acting Chairman Payne, at Washington, as follows:

"Due to the death of Chairman Hanna, I tender to you my resignation as secretary of the republican national committee, effective immediately."

Mr. Heath stated that the telegram told the entire story, and he had nothing to add to it.

## KAISER UNMINDFUL OF WAR.

Will Depart March 5 on a Holiday Cruise in Mediterranean.

BERLIN, February 20.—Emperor William starts on his Mediterranean holiday March 5, joining the imperial yacht Hohenzollern at Messina, Sicily. When the first news of the outbreak of war between Russia and Japan was communicated to his majesty, he gave up his proposed trip, but as the international situation became calm, he again announced his intention of taking a holiday.

The emperor's health prevents her from accompanying the emperor to the Mediterranean.

## HEAD-ON COLLISION.

Causes Death of Baggage-master and Injuries to Others.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., February 20.—Pennsylvania passenger train No. 6, leaving Chicago about midnight, was wrecked early today at Hobart, Ind., forty miles east of Chicago, in a head-on collision with a freight train. Charles Strayer, baggage-master of Chicago, was killed, and Mail Clerks Bricker, Bowers, Thomas and two passengers, E. G. Weisenberger and C. F. Haverlin, and S. A. Lindner, fireman of Chicago, were seriously injured.

The baggage car and express car were telescoped, and a mail car and both locomotives were badly smashed. A relief train was sent from Chicago, and the injured were taken to that city.

## MET HIS FATE AT LAST.

Sequel to Long-Standing Feud With Hudson Bay Indians.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, February 20.—The long-standing feud between the family of Roderick Thomas, a Hudson Bay fur trader, and the Indians about Lac du Hackett, which had already brought death to two members of the Thomas family, has resulted in the death of Thomas himself.

His body has been found hacked to pieces 600 miles north of here. The mounted police are rounding up the Indians.

## FOURTEEN DIE IN EXPLOSION.

Paris Comb Factory Blows Up—Twenty Injured.

PARIS, February 20.—Fourteen employees of a celluloid comb factory, at the corner of the Boulevard Sebastopol and the Rue Etienne Marcel, lost their lives today in a fire which was started by an explosion of gas. About twenty other employees were injured.

## FIND CHARRED REMAINS.

Supposed to Have Been Only Victim of Baltimore Fire.

BALTIMORE, February 20.—It was thought that not a life was lost in the fire here, but a charred body, supposed to be that of a colored man, has been found in the water at Bowley's wharf.

The body is so badly burned as to be unrecognizable.

## THE VICE PRESIDENCY

INDIANA MAY FURNISH CANDIDATES FOR BOTH PARTIES.

Democratic Leaders Are Planning to Carry That State and Also Illinois.

Indiana may furnish the candidates for second place on both presidential tickets. Indiana is regarded as fighting ground by the democratic leaders, and they are looking it over very carefully.

"Roosevelt and Fairbanks and John Doe and Miers" may be the names with which to conjure in Indiana next fall. Parker, Gorman, Hearst or the dark horse, now best represented by John Doe, be substituted on the democratic ticket, but Representative Robert W. Miers' friends are freely predicting that he will be the second name on the democratic presidential list.

Plans to carry Indiana and Illinois are now nearer to the hearts of the democratic leaders than even the question of presidential election. They think that somehow or other the problem of the nominee for first place will work itself out, and they are more concerned in the practical politics of debatable territory.

## Claim for Indiana.

Indiana is claimed as old-fashioned democratic ground. The land of Hendricks, of Dan Voorhees, of Turpie, of Holman and the long line of distinguished democrats who have led the hosts of the democracy to victory has been grudgingly yielded to the republicans, and the democrats find would redeem the old soil.

Representative Miers is a member of the old guard of the Indiana democracy; a democrat through thick and thin and unalterable in his devotion to the old party through the changing times and the kaleidoscopic policies as they flashed. Sometimes things have come a little swiftly for him, in the way of policies and platforms, but he has held on hard, and when he could get his breath would declare that though he might not understand it all for the moment, it was labeled democracy, and he was a democrat. His vice presidential boom is daily growing more vigorous.

In Congress the belief is general that Senator Fairbanks will be the republican candidate for Vice President. The idea is entirely acceptable to republicans, and at this time seems to be the political probability.

## Medical Officer on General Staff.

It is very probable that before long the medical corps of the army will be represented on the general staff. It is thought that Secretary Taft, upon the recommendation of the surgeon general of the army, will authorize the detail of a medical officer with Major Guy L. Edie to the general staff.

## Chevrans for Enlisted Soldiers.

The question of chevrons for the white uniform of the enlisted men of the army is under discussion again. It has been recommended that a brown chevron be adopted for this uniform in place of the white chevron, as provided for in the original regulations. A white chevron on a white uniform, of course, is indistinguishable unless its dimensions are indicated by a darker "piping." The new chevron is being tested at Fort Myer, Va.

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## Medals for Army Competition.

The various medals for departmental and army competitions of last year have been received by the chief of ordnance of the army, and arrangements are being made for their transmission to those entitled to wear them.

## Gun Velocity to Be Reduced.

As a result of the many accidents to the naval guns the Navy Department has ordered the reducing of the initial velocities of guns on board ship, at naval proving grounds and also at navy yards. The velocity of the thirteen-inch guns has been reduced from 2,800 feet to 2,600 feet, and the velocity of the three-inch guns has been reduced from 2,800 feet to 2,700 feet.

## Naval Promotions.

The President has approved the records of the examining board which promoted to the grades named Rear Admirals Thomas J. Jewell, William M. Foster and Casper J. Goodrich.

## GOING TO THE MANEUVERS.

The General Board of the Navy Will Leave Here Monday.

Admiral Dewey, Mr. Loomis, the assistant secretary of state; Rear Admiral Henry C. Taylor, chief of the bureau of navigation, the general board of the navy and Lieut. Reginald K. Belknap of the bureau of navigation, will leave Washington Monday afternoon at 3:30 on the Southern railway for Charleston, S. C., where Admiral Dewey and the general board will inspect the progress of the work at the navy yard there, and will board the Mayflower, thence going to witness the maneuvers of the combined fleet in the West Indies.

Mayflower to Sail Today.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

NORFOLK, Va., February 20.—The converted gunboat Mayflower, upon which Admiral Dewey and staff are to witness the Caribbean sea maneuvers of the North Atlantic squadron, came out of dry dock at the Norfolk navy yard this morning, and sails for the south at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

The colliers Leonidas and Sterling, with coal for the Caribbean sea fleet, sail this afternoon with the Mayflower.

## TO CONSULT DR. HERRAN.

A Colombian Consular Official Coming to Washington.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—Mariano Beccera, consul general of Colombia at Curacao, was a passenger on the steamer Adirondack, which arrived today from Savannah. He is on special service to consult the Colombian diplomatic representative, Dr. Thomas Herran.

## Congressional Committees Return.

The train bearing the congressional committees and others who went from this city to attend the funeral of Senator Hanna in Cleveland returned here today in time for the meeting of the Senate and House. The train was expected in at 9 o'clock, but it was nearly 12 o'clock when it reached Washington. Governor Taft went to Cincinnati and Secretary Cortelyou went to Canton. All the senators and representatives who attended the funeral returned on the special train.

## Discovery of a New Sea.

United States Minister John Barret reports to the State Department from Buenos Ayres, January 12, the arrival at that port of the Scottish antarctic expedition on the Scotia, and gives a brief statement of the results of the expedition. The Scotia covered 4,000 miles of previously unexplored sea and found a new deep sea of 2,500 fathoms about 500 miles southeast of South Orkney, and about 100 miles from the Antarctic continent. The Scotia was expected to return to Scotland by way of Cape Good Hope some time in June.

## Changes in the Cuban Tariff.

For the benefit of American exporters the bureau of statistics, Department of Commerce and Labor, has just published in the daily consular reports in great detail the changes made by the Cuban government by proclamation in the tariff. As already indicated, these amount to increases of from 15 to 30 per cent, and the effect of the changes is about the same as comparison with the Cuban tariff already issued by the same bureau.

## The Public Hay Scales.

Representative Babcock has introduced in the House a bill similar to one now pending in the Senate authorizing the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to make regulations respecting the public hay scales.

## For Military Camp in Idaho.

Senator Heyburn today introduced an amendment to the army appropriation bill appropriating \$500,000 for the purchase of 20,000 acres of land in Spokane county, Wash., and Kootenai county, Idaho, for the establishment of a permanent camp ground for the regular army and national militia.

## Martial Law in Uruguay.

In a report to the State Department from Montevideo, dated January 13, United States Minister Finch states that while there has been no declaration of martial law it is accurately being enforced throughout Uruguay. Egress from Montevideo was restricted to foreigners with passports and there was a rigid press censorship.

## Canal Commission Selected.

President Roosevelt has selected the men who are to constitute the new Panama canal commission, and formal announcement of the personnel of the commission will be made as soon as the treaty with Panama shall have been ratified next Tuesday. As heretofore stated, Rear Admiral John W. Walker, who is president of the existing isthmian canal commission, will be a member of the new commission, probably its head, and Gen. George W. Davis also will be a member. In addition to those two, Col. Frank G. Hecker of Detroit, who during the Spanish-American war was director of transportation for the War Department, has been chosen by the President to a place on the commission. He has indicated his acceptance of the appointment. The commission is to be composed of seven members.

## Naval Promotions.

The other four have been selected, but no intimation is given as to who they may be, except that one of them is a prominent Louisianian. He will be the southern man on the commission. It is understood to be quite certain that former Senator James K. Jones of Arkansas, former Gov. Sayers of Texas, Isham Randolph of Chicago, who was the chief engineer of the Chicago drainage canal, and former Senator Harris of Kansas, all of whom have been named prominently in connection with appointments to the new commission, are not among the selections of the President. It is expected that the President very soon will receive acceptances from all of the men whom he has chosen for the commission. His effort has been to secure men who, in a notable degree, are well fitted for the work which they will have to do, and it is believed the announcement of the personnel of the commission will commend itself to the people of the country.

## A Vagrant Office Cat.

Neither the President nor Secretary Loeb has ever had time to consider the question

## AT THE WHITE HOUSE

An Early Adjournment of Congress Favored.

MAY 1 IS SUGGESTED

NEW PANAMA CANAL COMMISSIONERS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.

Names to Be Announced Next Wednesday, Immediately After Ratification of Treaty.

The minds of members of Congress are turning to the question of the adjournment of that body. There is a unanimous opinion among those who call at the White House, and who have referred to adjournment in talking with the President that there is absolutely no reason why the legislature should be in session after May 1, and some senators and representatives declare that April 15 would be the proper time for adjournment.

Senator Lodge says that Congress ought to be able to finish its work by April 15 at the latest. "It seems to me," he said to a Star reporter, "that there is nothing to keep Congress here after April 15. The canal treaty is practically out of the way, and the appropriation bills can be handled in sufficient time to get away by the middle of April."

House leaders also see no reason against an early adjournment. In the House adjournment can be arranged for at almost any time, as the rules of that body permit the expedient of business. Senator Dryden of New Jersey, one of the White House callers today, said: "I really think we could easily dispose of the work ahead of us and adjourn by April 1, but, allowing for everything that we may not be able to see, May 1 might be the limit for remaining here. The Panama legislation has been the most important we have had and will have, and with this out of the way next week there will be nothing I can now see to prevent the early passage of the appropriation bills. I find that the democratic senators are in accord with the republicans about an early adjournment."

Senator Quarles of Wisconsin feels that Congress could easily get away by April 15, but he has May 1 as the limit for staying at home. "There is no excuse for staying here after May 1," Senator Quarles said. "With the appropriation bills as the main work to be done, there is no reason why we should stay here. These bills can be disposed of in a few weeks. When the Panama treaty is settled on the most important matter for action is the case of General Leonard Wood. I am sure that a settlement of this case will require only a few days. There may be some complications in the far eastern situation to be looked after by Congress, but I do not anticipate anything that will delay adjournment after May 1."

Senator Fulton of Oregon expressed the opinion that May 1 ought to find Congress away from Washington and Senator Mitchell of the same state said: "I have been in the Senate for a good many years, but I have never seen the prospects so good for an early adjournment as now. I do not know what may happen in connection with the eastern problem, but without unexpected complications we ought to get away from here within a week or two."

## Has a Good Memory.

President Roosevelt has a remarkable memory for the faces and names of people he has met, and this was shown again today in his greeting of George H. Buckstaff of Oshkosh, Wis., who went to the White House to renew a transient acquaintance formed twelve years ago. Mr. Buckstaff was hunting in Texas at the time and casually met the President, who did not know state hunting peculiarities, a small wild hog. They hunted together for a few days and then parted without the expectation of seeing each other again.

Senator Quarles could introduce Mr. Buckstaff the President had extended his greetings and recalled the circumstances of their meeting and of the hunt.

## Senator Bard of California.

Senator Bard of California had a conference with the President today. The impression prevails that John G. Bard, naval officer of the port of San Francisco, about whose office the California republicans have much to say in the last year or so, will resign his position before many months.

Representative Shirley of Louisiana introduced a party of insurance agents from Louisiana, who are on a cashing on the excursion. Senator Clapp of Minnesota and Representative Loudenslager of New Jersey introduced friends.

Delegates from Oklahoma and three prominent citizens of the territory—ex-Judge Sleeper, Mayor Turner of Lawton and Mr. Cunningham, the county attorney at Lawton—with the President and the President about the expenditure of the proceeds of the sale of lots in Lawton, Andarko and Hobart. There is a fund of about \$750,000 to be used in country and city improvements, and the Oklahoma people interested are in a great struggle about how it is to be spent. Delegations of them have been consulted with Secretary Hitchcock of the Interior Department, and have suggested many ways of disposing of the money. The President wanted some facts, and this induced a call from the men named.

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## Medals for Army Competition.

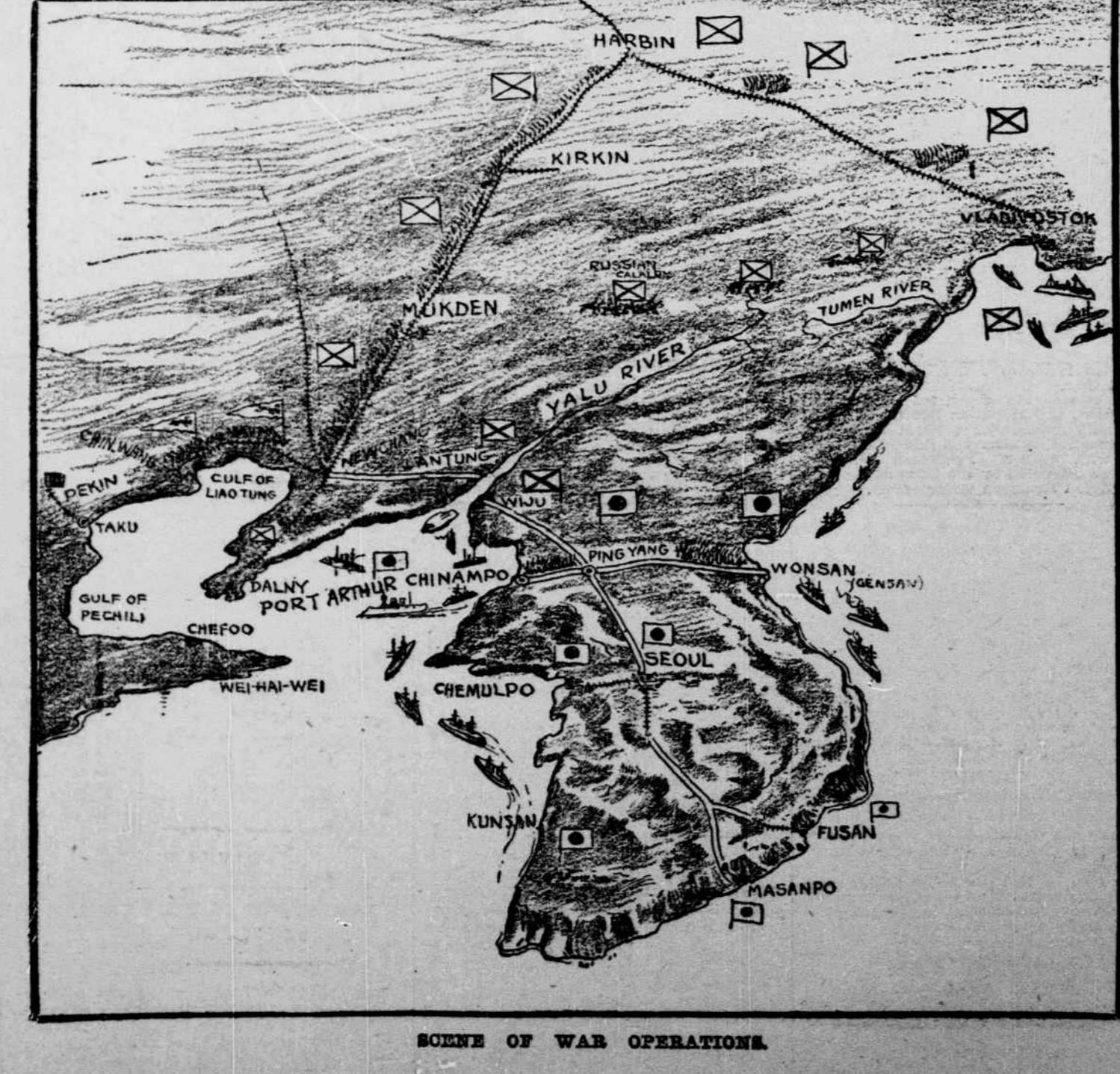
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SOME OF WAR OPERATIONS.